

Greetings,

My name is Yesenia Carrion. I am a single mother with a special needs child. My daughter has Autism Spectrum Disorder. I moved from Boston, MA to Middletown in hopes of getting better care for my daughter because she was getting lost in the shuffle. Due to the fact that I am a single mother and my child has special needs finding a job was nearly impossible. All employers are looking for someone to work 9 to 5 or weekends. These typical schedules were and continue to be impossible for me. Around last school year I began talking to an employee at Bielefield who happens to be Melissa Robinson who works for Family School Connections. I told her about my struggle to find a job; which brings along struggles all of its own. I had to cash out my 401(k) so that I could pay rent, pay bills and buy food. She asked me if I would like to get a visit from a home visitor ( which is an employee of the program) so that I could make a plan, and get resources to help me get out of my struggle. With that said I was visited by Colleen Alleyne. From that first meeting these women saved me. They were able to help me provide warm clothing for my child because I simply didn't have the money. Because of them, I was able to have a thanksgiving meal this year. Through this amazing program and my home visitor Colleen I was able to obtain employment at Bielefield Elementary as a Para-Professional and I now no longer have to worry if we will have a place to call home tomorrow. This program has opened up a gateway for my child to have a self-sufficient life. I was told today that the program may be shut down and I find this to be absolutely terrifying. There are families in this community who need this support. They are not looking for handouts or an easy way out. They may be just like me. I have a child who requires special care, special attention that is not provided through our society and because of that parents like myself must make sacrifices. Please, do not be the reason that a child like my daughter will lose a chance at a future.